THE SPHINX SOLUTION – GIVEN THE NOD

First, identify the celebrities or characters around the perimeter. These are ordered alphabetically by their last names, clockwise from upper left, which helps disambiguate whether the character name or actor name is called for in one or two cases.

Humanoid versions of all of the pictured animals were used as costumes in the first three seasons of The Masked Singer (the intro line about the Sphinx's "unmoving, unchanging visage" was meant as a hint towards this, but Googling a large enough set of the animals together would also lead quickly to The Masked Singer). Each of the given people share a first name with the celebrity who wore one of these costumes, so the given numbers and symbols can be mapped to the animal grid to create a Slitherlink / Fences puzzle.

After solving the puzzle, as shown below, follow the path beginning with the arrow in the second 3x3 square in the third row, in the indicated direction. Whenever a ? is encountered, solvers should determine its 1/2/3 "path value" and use that number to index into the last name of the disguised celebrity. In order, these letters spell SOL IS GIVEN THE NOD.

LADYBUG	FLAMINGO	PENGUIN	EAGLE
RHINO	WHITE TIGER	KITTY	RABBIT
BUTTERFLY	ROTTWEILER	HIPPO	SWAN
POODLE	PEACOCK	BEE	UNICORN

KELLY (RIPA) OSBOURNE	ADRIENNE (BARBEAU) BAILON	SHERRI (MARTEL) SHEPHERD	DREW (BARRY-MORE) PINSKY
BARRY (MANILOW) ZITO	ROB (LOWE) GRONKOW-SKI	JACKIE (CHAN) EVANCHO	JOEY (TRIBIANI) FATONE
MICHELLE (OBABA) WILLIAMS	CHRIS (ROCK) DAUGHTRY	ANTONIO (BANDERAS) BROWN	BELLA (ABZUG) THORNE
MARGARET (THATCHER) CHO	DONNY (DEUTSCH) OSMOND	GLADYS (KRAVITZ) KNIGHT	TORI (AMOS) SPELLING